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Sustainable development: protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Convention on Biological Diversity

Implementation of United Nations environmental conventions

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the reports submitted by the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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I. Report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the United Nations Climate Change Conference, Warsaw, 2013

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 68/212, invited the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report to it at its sixty-ninth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. The present report is submitted in response to that invitation.

A. Summary

2. The United Nations Climate Change Conference was held in Warsaw from 11 to 23 November 2013 and comprised the following sessions:

(a) The nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

(b) The ninth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol;

(c) The thirty-ninth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation;

(d) The thirty-ninth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice;

(e) The third part of the second session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action.

3. The Warsaw Conference enjoyed a high level of participation and was attended by 4,022 Government delegates, 3,695 observers and 658 media representatives. The Conference was able to deliver significant results across all bodies: the Conference of the Parties to the Convention adopted 28 decisions and the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol adopted 10 decisions. The main outcomes of the Warsaw Conference include:

(a) The decision on further advancing the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action towards achieving an ambitious and meaningful global agreement in 2015, including a call to parties to come forward with their intended nationally determined contributions, and on enhancing ambition in the pre-2020 period (decision 1/CP.12);

(b) The establishment of the Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage associated with climate change impacts, under the Cancun Adaptation Framework, to address loss and damage associated with the impacts of climate change, including extreme events and slow onset events, in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change (decision 2/CP.19);

(c) The adoption of the Warsaw Framework for REDD-plus,[1] a set of seven decisions that provide a comprehensive rulebook for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD-plus).[2]

B. High-level segment

4. The joint high-level segment of the nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol was opened by the President.

5. The Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and other dignitaries delivered statements recognizing the need to take decisive steps towards a successful agreement at the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Paris, in November and December 2015. The Secretary-General asked those countries that had not yet done so to deposit their instruments of acceptance of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol and called upon parties to step up on finance, including long-term finance and the Green Climate Fund. The Secretary-General invited Heads of State and Government, along with leaders from the finance and business communities, local government and civil society, to the Climate Summit to be held in New York in September 2014 and asked those who attend to bring bold and new announcements and action.

6. At the high-level segment, statements were made by 148 parties, of which four were given by Heads of State or Government, two were given by either Vice-Presidents or Deputy Prime Ministers, 85 were given by ministers and 57 were given by party representatives. In addition, two statements were given by observer States. Statements were also made by representatives of six parties on behalf of negotiating and other groups.

7. Two high-level ministerial dialogues were convened, one on climate finance and one on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action.

8. The high-level ministerial dialogue on climate finance was convened to consider the progress made in the mobilization of long-term finance and efforts being undertaken by developed country parties to scale up the mobilization of climate finance after 2012.

9. The dialogue showed that there was a strong willingness to work together to achieve the common goal of providing scaled-up climate finance. Participants indicated that there is significant experience to build on, with the fast-start finance period providing useful lessons learned. The dialogue served as an important platform for parties to reconfirm their political support for the Green Climate Fund and communicate continued support to developing country parties after the fast-start finance period, including pledges in excess of $100 million to the Adaptation Fund, REDD-plus and the Green Climate Fund once it is operational. There was a sense that public funds should unlock private finance, and a clear call for transparency, predictability, clarity and balance between adaptation and mitigation.

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[1] The COP agreed that decisions 9/CP.19 to 15/CP.19 be designated as the Warsaw Framework for REDD-plus; see document FCCC/CP/2013/10, paragraph 44.

[2] See decision 1/CP.13 on the Bali Action Plan, paragraph 1 (b) (iii).

10. With respect to the high-level ministerial dialogue on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action, the co-chairs of the Platform considered that the following common threads had emerged from the discussion: (a) an effective agreement maximizes participation and encourages all parties to examine all areas for action; (b) sustainable development and climate change are inextricably linked and need to be approached in cohesion; and (c) the contributions to the 2015 agreement, while nationally determined, will require an internationally determined framework of rules in order to come together.

11. In addition, the Presidency of the Conference conducted events (the Cities and Subnational Dialogue and the Presidency Business Dialogue) as part of the activities to engage with all stakeholders in the international climate process aimed at ensuring continued dialogue between parties to the Convention and representatives of relevant constituency groups.

C. Outcomes of the nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention

12. Following the path initiated at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention held in Durban, South Africa in 2011, the Conference in Warsaw was able to achieve significant progress in advancing towards a new global agreement. Parties agreed to request the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action to accelerate its development of a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all parties and to explore options for a range of actions that could close the ambition gap (see decision 1/CP.19, para. 1). Parties also requested the Ad Hoc Working Group to further elaborate elements for a draft negotiating text on mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, capacity-building and transparency of action and support, with a view to consideration at the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, to be held in Lima in December 2014.

13. Intended nationally determined contributions remain a key element to achieve the agreement in 2015 and, therefore, the Conference of the Parties invited parties to initiate or intensify domestic preparations for their intended nationally determined contributions and to communicate them well in advance of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties (by the first quarter of 2015 for those parties ready to do so).

14. Furthermore, the Conference of the Parties resolved to enhance ambition in the pre-2020 period in order to ensure the highest possible mitigation efforts under the Convention by all parties. It therefore urged each party that had not yet communicated a quantified economy-wide emission reduction target or nationally appropriate mitigation action, as applicable, to do so and urged each developed country party to implement without delay its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target under the Convention and, if applicable for parties also to the Kyoto Protocol, their quantified emission limitation or reduction commitment for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.

15. Finally, parties agreed to accelerate activities under the workplan on enhancing mitigation ambition. To do so, they were invited to promote the voluntary cancellation of certified emission reductions, without double counting, as a means of closing the pre-2020 ambition gap.

16. A major outcome of the Conference was the establishment of the Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage associated with climate change impact under the Cancun Adaptation Framework.

17. While establishing the mechanism, parties acknowledged that loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change include, and in some cases involve more than, that which can be reduced by adaptation. They agreed on institutional arrangements to address loss and damage associated with the impacts of climate change in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

18. Functions of the mechanism include the enhancement of knowledge and understanding of comprehensive risk management approaches to address loss and damage; the strengthening of dialogue, coordination, coherence and synergies among relevant stakeholders; and the enhancement of action and support, including finance, technology and capacity-building to address loss and damage.

19. The mechanism will be reviewed in 2016. In its decision 2/CP.19, the Conference of the Parties established an executive committee of the Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage associated with climate change impacts (see para. 2), to be convened by March 2014.

20. Parties agreed that the mechanism would build on the work of existing institutions and thus should complement, draw upon the work of and involve, as appropriate, existing bodies and expert groups under the Convention, as well as on that of relevant organizations and expert bodies outside the Convention.

21. Another key outcome of the Conference was the adoption of a set of decisions relating to finance, including long-term climate finance (decision 3/CP.19) and the Green Climate Fund (decisions 4/CP.19 and 5/CP.19).

22. Under the decision on long-term climate finance, parties recognized the commitment undertaken by developed country parties to a goal of jointly mobilizing $100 billion annually by 2020, to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation.

23. In this area, the Conference recognized the importance of providing clarity on the level of financial support that will be provided by developed country parties to developing country parties to allow for enhanced implementation of the Convention. Furthermore, developed country parties were urged to maintain continuity of mobilization of public climate finance at increasing levels and were requested to prepare biennial submissions on their updated strategies and approaches for scaling up climate finance from 2014 to 2020.

24. The Conference of the Parties called upon developed country parties to channel a substantial share of public climate funds to adaptation activities and recalled that a significant share of new multilateral funding for adaptation should flow through the Green Climate Fund.

25. The Conference of the Parties also decided to convene a biennial high-level ministerial dialogue on climate finance starting in 2014 and ending in 2020.

26. The Conference of the Parties agreed to the arrangements between it and the Green Climate Fund (see decision 5/CP.19), thereby bringing them into force. The arrangements set out the working relationship between the Conference of the Parties

and the Green Climate Fund to ensure that the Fund is accountable to the Conference of the Parties and functions under its guidance to support projects, programmes, policies and other activities in developing country parties. The arrangements reaffirm that the Board of the Green Climate Fund has full responsibility for funding decisions and establish that the Conference of the Parties will make assessments of the amount of funds that are necessary to assist developing countries in implementing the Convention, in order to help to inform resource mobilization by the Fund. In turn, the Green Climate Fund is to provide information on resource mobilization and the available financial resources, including any replenishment processes, in its annual reports to the Conference of the Parties.

27. The Conference of the Parties also adopted initial guidance on policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria for the Green Climate Fund, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention (see decision 4/CP.19, para. 8). Developed countries are to provide ambitious and timely contributions to enable, by the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties, the initial resource mobilization process.

28. The Warsaw Conference was able to culminate the work undertaken over several years with the adoption of the Warsaw Framework for REDD-plus. Decisions covered several issues, including finance, coordination of support for mitigation actions in the forest sector by developing parties, modalities for national forest monitoring systems, transparency and safeguards, monitoring, verification and addressing the drivers of deforestation.

29. Under the work programme on results-based finance (see decision 9/CP.19), parties reaffirmed that results-based finance provided to developing country parties may come from a variety of sources, public and private, bilateral and multilateral, including alternative sources. They encouraged entities financing the REDD-plus activities to channel adequate and predictable results-based finance in a fair and balanced manner, taking into account different policy approaches, while working with a view to increasing the number of countries that are in a position to obtain and receive payments for results-based action. The Conference of the Parties also recognized the importance of incentivizing non-carbon benefits for long-term sustainability of the REDD-plus activities.

30. The Conference of the Parties further decided to establish an information hub on the web platform on the website of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as a means to publish information on the results of the REDD-plus activities. The hub is aimed at increasing the transparency of information on results-based actions and on the corresponding payments, as well as information related to the emission reductions from deforestation and forest degradation, the conservation of forest carbon stocks, the sustainable management of forests and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

31. On the coordination of support for the implementation of activities in relation to mitigation actions in the forest sector by developing countries, including institutional arrangements (see decision 10/CP.19), parties were invited to designate a national entity or focal point to serve as a liaison with the secretariat and the relevant bodies under the Convention on the coordination of support for the full implementation of such activities. These entities or focal points may nominate their entities to obtain and receive results-based payments.

32. The Conference of the Parties reaffirmed the importance of addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation (see decision 15/CP.19) in the context of the development and implementation of national strategies and action plans by developing country parties and recognized that the actions to address drivers are unique to countries' national circumstances, capacities and capabilities. Parties, organizations and the private sector were encouraged to take action to reduce the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. The decision was adopted with the understanding that it should not be interpreted as implying that traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples, based on natural resources, are drivers of deforestation (see FCCC/CP/2013/10, para. 42 (e)).

33. A significant outcome of the Conference was the decision adopting the modalities and procedures of the Climate Technology Centre and Network and its Advisory Board (see decision 25/CP.19). This adoption allowed the Climate Technology Centre and Network to start receiving requests from parties for technology support and to respond to them accordingly. The modalities include six key elements: roles and responsibilities; managing requests from national designated entities of developing countries and delivering responses; fostering collaboration and access to information and knowledge in order to accelerate climate technology transfer; strengthening networks, partnerships and capacity-building for climate technology transfer; linkages with the Technology Executive Committee; and information- and knowledge-sharing.

34. The Climate Technology Centre and Network was requested to work in conjunction with the Technology Executive Committee to ensure coherence and synergy within the Technology Mechanism, with the intention of accelerating the development and transfer of technology, taking into account gender considerations, and scaling up international collaboration on the development and transfer of technology.

35. The Conference made further progress in the measurement, reporting and verification of domestically supported nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country parties. In its decision 21/CP.19, the Conference of the Parties adopted the general guidelines and invited developing country parties to use them on a voluntary basis.

D. Outcomes of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol

36. In Warsaw, the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol considered the status report presented by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the instruments of acceptance received by the Depositary in respect of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol (see decision 1/CMP.8). As at 13 November 2013, only four parties had deposited their instruments of acceptance. The President of the Conference invited parties to expedite the deposit of their instruments.

37. The Adaptation Fund Board presented its report to the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. The report noted the accreditation of 15 national implementing entities that can directly access resources from the Adaptation Fund; cumulative project and programme approvals reaching $184 million; the funds available for projects and programmes

implemented by multilateral implementing entities that reached the 50 per cent cap established by Adaptation Fund Board decision B.12/9; and the establishment of a pipeline of eight projects and programmes recommended for approval by the Project and Programme Review Committee, for which no funds were available. The Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol thanked parties for their pledges, totalling over $100 million, to the Adaptation Fund.

38. The Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol noted with concern issues related to the sustainability, adequacy and predictability of funding from the Adaptation Fund given the current prices of certified emission reductions.

39. The Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol adopted decision 2/CMP.9 on the second review of the Adaptation Fund and its terms of reference.

40. The Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol provided further guidance relating to the clean development mechanism. This included general guidance, governance, baseline and monitoring methodologies and additionality, registration of project activities under the mechanism and issuance of certified emission reductions, and regional and subregional distribution. Parties also agreed on the next steps towards adopting a decision to revise the clean development mechanism modalities and procedures in Lima in 2015.

41. As in previous years, the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol also provided guidance in respect of the implementation of article 6 of the Kyoto Protocol, on joint implementation.

E. Conclusions and recommendations

42. **The General Assembly may wish to, inter alia:**

(a) **Take note of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as transmitted by the Secretary-General;**

(b) **Note the outcomes of the nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, hosted by the Government of Poland from 11 to 23 November 2013;**

(c) **Urge parties to deposit their instruments of acceptance in order to ensure the prompt entry into force of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol;**

(d) **Pledge its support to the negotiating process under the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action towards the conclusion of a new climate agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change by 2015;**

(e) **Invite the Executive Secretary to continue to report to it on the work of the Conference.**

II. Report on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

A. Background

43. In its resolution 68/213, the General Assembly recalled the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want" (resolution 66/288, annex), in which the Conference recognized the need for urgent action to reverse land degradation and, in view of that, to strive to achieve a land-degradation-neutral world in the context of sustainable development. The Assembly also reaffirmed its resolve to take coordinated action, nationally, regionally and internationally, to globally monitor land degradation and restore degraded lands. In that respect, the Assembly encouraged giving appropriate consideration to the issues of desertification, land degradation and drought in the elaboration of the development agenda beyond 2015, and requested the Secretary-General to report to it, at its sixty-ninth session, on the implementation of the resolution.

B. Major outcomes of the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification relevant to the General Assembly

44. The eleventh session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification was held in Windhoek, Namibia, from 16 to 27 September 2013. Over 3,000 delegates, including 45 ministerial participants, attended the two-week session, which included, in addition to the high-level segment, several innovative features including Gender Day, the Sustainable Land Management Business Forum, a round table of parliamentarians and a film festival. The outcomes of the session included several major breakthroughs. The two-day high-level ministerial segment expressed interest in, inter alia, the pursuit of a land-degradation-neutral world, the importance of best practices and the economics of desertification, land degradation and drought and sustainable land management. The Namib Declaration on a stronger United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification for a land-degradation-neutral world, called upon stakeholders to commit to enhance sustainable land management and improve livelihoods at all levels. The Declaration outlined action to strengthen the leadership of the Convention for the achievement of "The future we want"; address drought mitigation as a matter of priority; advance the science-policy interface; focus on local communities; engage with the private sector; and empower women.

45. Another major advance was the establishment of the Science-Policy Interface, a mechanism to communicate scientific findings on land issues to policymakers. It was also agreed to set up an intergovernmental working group on the follow-up to the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, with three key tasks: identify a science-based definition of land degradation neutrality in the drylands; develop options that parties might consider should they strive to

achieve land degradation neutrality; and advise the Convention on the implications for its current and future strategy and programmes.

46. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was invited to increase its support to the land degradation focal area and take coordinated actions at all levels to monitor land degradation and restoration of degraded lands. Following the decision on the governance and institutional arrangements of the Global Mechanism (decision 6/COP 11), actions were taken to relocate the Global Mechanism to Bonn, Germany, co-locating it with the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. As at April 2014, a liaison office had been established at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome.

C. Follow-up to the outcomes of the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention relevant to the General Assembly processes

1. Establishment of an intergovernmental working group

47. The eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties decided to establish an intergovernmental working group to follow up on the commitment made by world leaders at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to strive towards a land-degradation-neutral world.

48. It was decided that, during the course of its work, the intergovernmental working group would take into account the following: (a) the ongoing process of elaborating the post-2015 development agenda, including, inter alia, the discussions in the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals called for at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development; (b) relevant economic studies and work undertaken by the science-policy interface, as appropriate; and (c) the importance of identifying synergies to avoid duplication among the Rio Conventions, other international bodies, and agencies addressing environment and development issues.

49. The first meeting of the intergovernmental working group was held in Brussels on 10 and 11 February 2014 and concluded with the adoption of its terms of reference and programme of work. Two task forces were established by the co-chairs, the first to address the definition of land degradation neutrality and the second to outline the options for achieving that neutrality. The second meeting of the intergovernmental working group was held in Beijing from 16 to 18 July 2014, where a third task force was established to advise on the implications of land degradation neutrality for the Convention's current and future strategy, programmes and resource requirements. The intergovernmental working group is expected to produce a report for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth session. To that end, the co-chairs initiated a three-month consultative process for the preparation of the interim working papers of the intergovernmental working group with a view to finalizing the report by March 2015.

2. Science-policy interface mechanism

50. The first meeting of the science-policy interface mechanism was held at the secretariat of the Convention in Bonn, Germany, from 24 to 26 June 2014. During

the meeting, the participants focused on the elaboration of the work programme up to the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties, identifying objectives and deliverables. They also decided to concentrate on bringing to the other Rio Convention the scientific evidence on the contribution of sustainable land use and management to climate change adaptation and mitigation and to safeguarding biodiversity and ecosystem services; increasing the effectiveness of the Convention's scientific conferences in delivering policy-relevant information, knowledge and recommendations; and ensuring that the thematic assessment on land degradation and restoration conducted by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services is of relevance to the Convention and its parties.

D. United Nations Secretariat leadership dealing with desertification, land degradation and drought issues

51. As mentioned in the Convention's report to the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly (A/68/260) and in the light of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development related to desertification, land degradation and drought, it has become increasingly clear that if the international community does not take bold action to protect, restore and manage land sustainably, it will not achieve its commitments in respect of climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, forests and the Millennium Development Goal targets; neither will it alleviate rural poverty and hunger, ensure long-term food security or build resilience to drought and water stress. In that respect, the Executive Secretary of the Convention met with the Deputy Secretary-General on 7 November 2013 to share views with the United Nations Secretariat leadership on the importance of tackling desertification, land degradation and drought at the global, regional, national and local levels and the need to involve all stakeholders with a view to achieving global sustainability. The Executive Secretary also underlined the direct nexus among land degradation, political instability and food insecurity in some countries of the Sahel region. She welcomed the commitment by the world leaders at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to strive to achieve a land-degradation-neutral world as a major development, which, once adopted as a sustainable development target, would put those issues at the centre of sustainability. Heeding that call, the Deputy Secretary-General invited the Executive Secretary to pursue her advocacy, especially within the United Nations leadership. In that regard, the Executive Secretary was invited to participate in the Secretary-General's meeting with senior advisers on development as a special guest. The meeting is usually attended by heads of key agencies, funds and programmes.

52. In her address, entitled "A time of peril or opportunity", the Executive Secretary drew the attention of the United Nations leadership to that fact that land degradation is a rampant and silent crisis undermining the resilience of poor rural communities and breeding instability and that it is at the root of many issues critical to the United Nations leadership. She added that affected populations are the most exposed to climate change, food insecurity, poverty and conflict and land degradation is a threat multiplier.

53. At the end of the exchanges, the United Nations leadership expressed support for the vision of the Executive Secretary and encouraged her to share it with the United Nations membership.

E. Desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda

54. In its resolution 68/213, the General Assembly encouraged giving appropriate consideration to the desertification, land degradation and drought issues in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

55. In May 2013, the Open Working Group on sustainable development goals discussed desertification, land degradation and drought issues. A summary of the deliberations issued by the co-chairs immediately after the Group's meeting reflected recognition of the close interdependency among food, land and water, energy, health, biodiversity and climate change and of the need to address the drivers of land degradation, including unsustainable agricultural and livestock management practices as well as mining and industrial pollution. The Open Working Group noted that halting land degradation and increasing land restoration has co-benefits, including for sustainable water management, and reaffirmed the commitment to a land-degradation-neutral world.

F. Interim report of the co-chairs submitted to the General Assembly

56. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/203, the co-chairs of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals submitted their interim report to the President of the General Assembly on 25 September 2013. The report devoted a great deal of attention to desertification, land degradation and drought issues, which was the main thrust of the discussions held at the Working Group's third session. The report noted that halting and reversing land degradation is critical to meeting future food needs. Recalling that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development had called for the achievement of a land-degradation-neutral world in the context of sustainable development, the report noted the current extent of land degradation globally and the potential benefits from land restoration not only for food security but also for adapting to climate change.

G. Discussion by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals on possible goals and targets

57. As the sustainable development goal process evolved and the stocktaking exercise ended, the Open Working Group started discussing possible goals and targets. Speaking on behalf of a number of members of the Group of Friends on desertification, land degradation and drought, which was co-founded by Iceland and Namibia, the Permanent Representative of Iceland noted with concern that desertification, land degradation and drought issues had not yet been adequately captured in the co-Chairs' focus document. Recalling that at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development the international community had resolved to strive to achieve a land-degradation-neutral world while committing to monitor land degradation globally, the Permanent Representative deplored the lack of a dedicated focus area on desertification, land degradation and drought. She proposed the following four important targets:

(a) **Target 1**. Achieve a land-degradation-neutral world by 2030: To attain this, it is necessary to manage lands sustainably and regenerate those already degraded to make them fertile again;

(b) **Target 2**. All countries have in place sustainable land management policies built on an ecosystem approach by 2020. Many countries have such policies in place; the target is to scale them up worldwide;

(c) **Target 3**. All drought-prone countries develop and implement drought preparedness policies by 2020. That target will contribute to achieving a paradigm shift from crisis management of drought to resilience-building and preparedness;

(d) **Target 4**. All countries have in place, before 2020, capacity-building to restore or rehabilitate degraded land and reverse land degradation.

58. It was also during this session that the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing met to take stock of funding issues. The Executive Secretaries of the three Rio Conventions were invited to address the Committee. The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification delivered a statement before the Committee on 5 December 2013. Her key message was that sustainable land management would deliver benefits for a range of key sustainable development issues — economic growth, climate change adaptation and food security being high among them — and that existing financing streams for those issues could be reoriented and aligned to secure the benefits, via sustainable land management, without excessive additional costs.

59. The Open Working Group continued its deliberations in July 2014 and concluded its work. Acknowledging the repeated and urgent calls from many groups and countries on the crucial need to address desertification and land degradation if meaningful sustainable development is to be achieved, the final recommendation of the Working Group calls for proposed goal 15: Protect, restore and promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss. The final report of the Open Working Group also recommends targets, including proposed target 15.1: By 2020, ensure conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements, and proposed target 15.3: By 2020, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land-degradation-neutral world. The report of the Open Working Group will be considered at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly for appropriate action.

H. Celebration of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

60. By its resolution 49/115, the General Assembly proclaimed 17 June World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought. The Assembly invited all States to devote the World Day to promoting public awareness to combat desertification and the effects of drought and promoting the implementation of the provisions of the Convention. In 2014, the World Day coincided with the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (17 June 1994).

61. The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought campaign was kicked off on Africa Environment Day in Maseru on 3 March 2014. The Secretary-General, the Executive Secretary of the Convention and other senior United Nations officials issued special messages.

62. The observance theme for 2014 was ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change. Under the slogan, "Land belongs to the future: Let's climate-proof it", a number of activities and celebrations were organized by over 40 Member States and organizations.

63. The global observance event was held in Washington, D.C., hosted by the World Bank in partnership with GEF, TerrAfrica and Connect4Climate. Approximately 450 representatives from government, intergovernmental organizations and civil society registered for the full-day event. Speakers considered the requirements for ecosystem-based adaptation to address issues related to desertification, land degradation and drought and shared successful cases of combating desertification in drylands. The Prime Minister of the Niger and the Minister of Environment of Namibia (current President of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention) spoke at the opening session as keynote speakers.

64. Also during the global observance, the Land for Life Award winners were announced by Uahekua Herunga, Minister of Environment and Tourism of Namibia. The Convention's Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal interactive web maps were launched during the panel discussion on ecosystem-based adaptation. Other events included a photo exhibition, with pictures by renowned National Geographic photographer, George Steinmetz; the online question and answer session that linked to the Convention's capacity-building marketplace event in Bonn; and the launch by GEF of a publication on land degradation.

I. Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility

65. Since the adoption of decision 11/COP.11, a number of activities have been undertaken by the Convention's secretariat in its collaboration with its GEF counterpart:

1. Participation in the Council of the Global Environment Facility

66. The Executive Secretary participated in the 45th meeting of the GEF Council, held in Washington, D.C., from 5 to 7 November 2013.

67. At that meeting, the Executive Secretary called upon the Council to consider that investing in sustainable land management constituted a cost-efficient way to ensure comprehensive returns and expressed the wish to see the sixth GEF replenishment allocate resources to the land degradation focal area accordingly.

2. Participation in the fifth meeting of the Global Environment Facility Assembly

68. The GEF Assembly and Council met in Cancun, Mexico, from 25 to 30 May 2014. The Executive Secretary attended the GEF Assembly and related meetings. She addressed the Assembly at a high-level round-table panel on the water, food and energy nexus.

69. The panel, led by Pedro Joaquin Coldwell, Minister of Energy of Mexico, and moderated by Andrew Steer, President and Chief Executive Officer, World Resources Institute, was to answer to the question of how GEF can be best positioned to advance integrated solutions for achieving global water, food and energy security.

70. In her intervention, the Executive Secretary called for pragmatic approaches, bearing in mind that the goal is to achieve reliability and sustainability in order to provide for basic needs in the long term. She built the case, underlining that sustainable land management and land-based solutions are key assets to be placed at the heart of any nexus planning. The Executive Secretary also took advantage of the opportunity to raise the issue of drought, ascertaining that even though the disaster is not adequately reported by news outlets, it is a silent killer, claiming more lives than other natural catastrophes.

71. The GEF replenishment process allocated resources to the Facility's focal areas. The land degradation focal area was allocated $431 million. It was also understood that this focal area, given its cross-sectoral nature, would be funded through multi-focal area programmes.

3. Joint United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Global Environment Facility retreat

72. A joint retreat was convened in Bonn, Germany on 13 December 2013. At the retreat, the Executive Secretary of the Convention and the GEF Chief Executive Officer/Co-Chair and their collaborators discussed various areas of collaboration, including the amendment of the current memorandum of understanding between GEF and the Convention. The latter will be submitted to the twelfth Conference of the Parties in 2015 for adoption.

J. Next meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies

73. Following the adoption of decision 40/COP.11 on the date and venue of the twelfth Conference of the Parties to the Convention, extensive consultations took place between the secretariat of the Convention and the Government of Turkey. Within the framework of those exchanges, all relevant legal, financial, logistical and technical documentation on the requirements of the Conference of the Parties were communicated, including a draft host country agreement for the Conference.

74. Consultations are presently progressing well on several aspects of the organizational process, including the text of the host country agreement, with a view to ensuring its signature in due time. A final confirmation of the venue of the session is expected shortly from the Government of Turkey.

75. In its decision 28/COP.11, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Conference Bureau, to accommodate any offer from a party to host the fourth special session of the Committee on Science and Technology together with the third Scientific Conference of the Convention.

76. Following the interest expressed by the Government of Mexico in December 2013 to host the above-mentioned sessions, further exchanges took place.

77. On 18 February 2014 the Government of Mexico confirmed its readiness to host the fourth special session of the Committee on Science and Technology together with the third Scientific Conference of the Convention. As a follow-up to the formal offer received, a preliminary agreement was reached on the date and venue of the fourth special session, namely, from 9 to 12 March 2015, in Cancun.

78. In line with decision 20/COP.11, the Executive Secretary explored several options for the organization and hosting of the thirteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention. Nevertheless, at the time of writing, no final decision had been taken as regards the venue and timing of the session.

K. Observations and recommendations

79. Desertification, land degradation and drought have continued to occupy an important place in the sustainable development discourse during the past decade and, more consistently, since the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, when world leaders committed to strive to achieve a land-degradation-neutral world and to monitor globally the status of land degradation. It must also be recalled that in its resolution 68/213, the General Assembly encouraged giving appropriate consideration to desertification, land degradation and drought issues in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda. As the Assembly prepares to consider the report of its Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, it may wish to endorse the content relating to desertification, land degradation and drought issues and extend its support to have those challenges addressed in the post-2015 development agenda.

III. Report on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity

80. In its resolution 68/214, the General Assembly invited the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report to it, at its sixty-ninth session, on the implementation of the Convention and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and on difficulties encountered in the process of their implementation. The present report is submitted in response to that invitation.

A. Preparation for the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea from 6 to 17 October 2014

81. In preparation for the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, a number of meetings, particularly of the subsidiary bodies of the Convention, were held:

Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Review Implementation of the Convention

82. The fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Review Implementation of the Convention was held in Montreal, Canada from 16 to 20 June 2014. Key recommendations included those on resource mobilization, where

considerable progress was made towards targets that would form the basis of negotiations at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Open-ended Working Group also adopted recommendations recognizing the importance of effectively integrating biodiversity in the post-2015 development framework and sustainable development goals currently under consideration by the General Assembly. Other recommendations included those on capacity development, mainstreaming biodiversity in poverty eradication processes, technical and scientific cooperation, the Clearing-House Mechanism, engagement with business, and measures to enhance the efficiency of structures and processes under the Convention and its Protocols, including consolidation of their proceedings and the possible creation of a subsidiary body on implementation to replace the Open-ended Working Group.

Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

83. The seventeenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice was held from 14 to 18 October 2013. The meeting focused on identifying the key scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

84. The eighteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body was held from 23 to 28 June 2014 to deliberate on scientific issues that will inform future national efforts under the Convention to achieve the goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The Subsidiary Body welcomed the draft of the fourth edition of *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and provided recommendations for its finalization. It also adopted a summary report containing a scientific and technical evaluation of information describing ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and recommended that the Conference of the Parties forward the report to the General Assembly, among others. The Subsidiary Body also made recommendations on priority actions to address the pressures on coral reefs, including pollution, overfishing, ocean acidification and climate change; measures to address major pathways for invasive alien species; incentives that are harmful to biodiversity; synthetic biology; health and biodiversity; ecosystem restoration; and biodiversity and climate change.

Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8 (j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity

85. The eighth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8 (j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity was held from 7 to 11 October 2013. The Working Group discussed the development of guidelines for legislation, policies or programmes to implement article 8 (j) and its related provisions that recognize, safeguard and fully guarantee the rights of indigenous and local communities over their traditional knowledge within the context of the Convention.

Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity

86. The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity will enter into force on 12 October 2014 following its

ratification by 51 parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.[1] The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol will be held from 13 to 17 October 2014, concurrently with the twelfth Conference of the Parties to the Convention. Ratification represents a major step towards achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 16, which requires that by 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity be in force and operational, consistent with national legislation. The entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol will also provide greater legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users of genetic resources, creating a framework that promotes the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, while strengthening the opportunities for fair and equitable sharing of benefits from their use.

87. To prepare for the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol and its implementation, the third meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing was held from 24 to 28 February 2014, in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea. The Committee adopted eight recommendations for consideration at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol. The meeting made major progress on issues relating to compliance procedures and mechanisms; developed a road map for work on a global multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism; and agreed to a strategic framework to assist developing countries to build capacity to implement the Nagoya Protocol.

88. In accordance with the mandate of the General Assembly in its resolution 67/212, the secretariat of the Convention, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the International Treaty on Plant and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, organized a joint briefing for the Second Committee of the General Assembly on 30 October 2013 on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with a focus on the issues relating to access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization and the Nagoya Protocol. The special event was very well-attended, with over 150 representatives of Member States participating in the joint briefing.

[1] Albania, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, European Union, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Niger, Norway, Panama, Peru, Rwanda, Samoa, Seychelles, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Uganda, Uruguay, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

B. Preparations for the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, to be held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, from 29 September to 3 October 2014

89. As at 5 May 2014, 167 parties had ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. A number of intersessional activities aimed at enabling parties to implement the Cartagena Protocol have taken place in preparation for the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, to be held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, from 29 September to 3 October 2014:

(a) In the area of risk assessment and risk management (decision BS-V/12), the testing of the Guidance on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms was launched among parties, other Governments and relevant organizations with a view to evaluating its practicality and utility, taking into account past and present experiences with living modified organisms. Based on the feedback from parties, proposals for the improvement of the Guidance on Risk Assessment have been developed for consideration at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol;

(b) The ad hoc technical expert group established by the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol to develop conceptual clarity on socioeconomic considerations in decision-making on living modified organisms agreed on the elements of a framework. Recognizing the challenges involved, the group noted that there is no single agreed definition of "socioeconomic considerations" and decided to adopt a descriptive approach.

90. The tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was commemorated in 2013, with a number of activities under the overarching theme: "10 years of promoting safety in the use of biotechnology". Among the products developed for the commemoration were video clips, a promotional video, a logo, a global map of events, a newsletter, statements, a poster, a photo gallery and a Facebook site. More than 25 parties, Governments and organizations celebrated the event with activities, including more than 12 news articles published on the anniversary. The anniversary webpage is available from https://bch.cbd.int/protocol/10thAnniversary.shtml#events.

Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

91. As at 1 August 2014, 25 parties to the Cartagena Protocol had deposited their instruments of ratification, approval, acceptance, or accession to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress. The Supplementary Protocol will enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit of the fortieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. The secretariat has undertaken a number of activities to raise awareness and to help parties to familiarize themselves with the objective and core requirements of the Supplementary Protocol and to review the challenges and opportunities with regard to its ratification and implementation.

C. Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

1. International Day for Biodiversity

92. As part of its follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which welcomed the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity as an important framework to promote the engagement of all stakeholders in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, the secretariat has promoted a number of awareness-raising activities. Significant among these were the commemorative events held to mark the International Day for Biological Diversity on 22 May 2014. Against the backdrop of the International Year of Small Island Developing States and the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the theme "Island Biodiversity" was chosen for the 2014 International Day. A special event organized at United Nations Headquarters on 22 May 2014, presided by the Permanent Representative of Palau and co-sponsored by, inter alia, Grenada, Mauritius, Palau, Papua New Guinea, and Samoa was very well-attended, with the participation of many Permanent Representatives, particularly from small island developing States, and other high-level representatives from United Nations entities. The deliberations at the event focused on the importance of island biodiversity for the achievement of sustainable development and also served to highlight the need to better integrate biodiversity in the deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals. The event also provided an opportunity for the delivery of the messages of the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity.

93. National observances designed to enhance awareness about island biodiversity on the occasion of the International Day for Biodiversity were also organized in more than 71 countries, by over 13 international and United Nations organizations. The International Day also coincided with two workshops, held from 21 to 24 May 2014, in Qingdao, China: (a) a regional workshop for East, South and South-east Asia on cities and biodiversity; and (b) a regional workshop for East, South and South-east Asia on South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development.

Sustainable development goals

94. The secretariat has contributed actively to the preparations initiated by the United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda to support the deliberations of Member States in the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, with a view to mainstreaming biodiversity in the consideration of the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals. In the final report of the Open Working Group, biological diversity and ecosystems featured prominently, thereby demonstrating the growing recognition that biodiversity is essential for sustainable development. There are two proposed goals directly related to biodiversity: goal 14 on oceans and coasts and goal 15 on terrestrial biodiversity. Language referring to biodiversity and ecosystems and/or natural resources is also included in many other proposed goals, including goal 2 on food security, goal 6 on water and sanitation and goal 11 on cities and human settlements. The language in the chapeau underscores that conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits are at the heart of the sustainable development process. Paragraph 3 of the outcome document of the

thirteenth session of the Open Working Group states that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development. One of the most important achievements is the inclusion in goal 15 of target 15.9: By 2020, integrate ecosystems and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes and poverty reduction strategies, and accounts. This target is key, since it establishes a strong linkage among biodiversity, sustainable development and poverty eradication.

95. The outcome of the Open Working Group is also directly relevant to the theme of the upcoming twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties, particularly the high-level segment, which will take up the theme "Biodiversity for sustainable development". To highlight the essential role of biodiversity for sustainable development, the Convention will be celebrating the International Day for Biodiversity on 22 May 2015 under the theme "Biodiversity for sustainable development".

D. Progress made in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including difficulties encountered in the process of implementation

96. As requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/214, a summary assessment of the progress made in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including difficulties encountered in the process of implementation, is provided in the Annex to the present document. It draws on information provided by parties in their fifth national reports to the Convention (see the figure in the annex), and a review of each Aichi Biodiversity Target prepared as part of the fourth edition of *Global Biodiversity Outlook*. More detailed information is contained in the fourth edition, which will be launched at the Conference of the Parties and will be available from https://www.cbd.int/gbo4.

97. As summarized in the fourth edition of *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, there has been significant progress in achieving several elements of most of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. However, overall, the progress has not been sufficient to achieve the targets set for 2020, and additional action is required to keep the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 on course. It is also clear that progress in achieving certain targets, particularly those relating to addressing the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, developing the framework for implementing the Aichi Biodiversity Targets at the national level (national biodiversity strategies and action plans), and mobilizing financial resources will have an especially strong influence on achievement of the rest of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Challenges in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

98. The Convention's High-level Panel on Global Assessment of Resources for Implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 provided its initial assessment to the fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Review Implementation of the Convention and to the Intergovernmental Committee

of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, highlighting that expenditure and actions to meet the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets should be recognized as part of wider investment needs for achieving the sustainable development goals. Earlier in 2014, the financial mechanism of the Convention, the Global Environment Facility, successfully concluded its negotiations for the sixth replenishment period (1 July, 2014 through 30 June 2018) and allocated $1.296 billion to the biodiversity focal area, making biodiversity the largest single focal area in GEF.

99. Limited capacities and resources to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 represent a major challenge, particularly for developing countries. An increased focus on scientific and technical cooperation and continued attention to resource mobilization are expected to support countries in addressing these challenges. Support from the international community and the United Nations system through the mainstreaming of biodiversity in the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals will be crucial for generating and sustaining the momentum required for the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

E. Recommendations

100. **The General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, may wish to, inter alia:**

(a) **Take note of the outcomes of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, from 6 to 17 October 2014, including the mid-term review of progress made in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 undertaken on the basis of the fourth edition of *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, stress the need to step up activities to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and call for implementation of the outcomes;**

(b) **Call upon all United Nations departments, specialized agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions to fully support and implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;**

(c) **Encourage Member States and all relevant stakeholders, including United Nations departments, specialized agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions, to contribute to the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (2011-2020);**

(d) **Urge States that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention and thereby make participation universal;**

(e) **Urge parties to the Convention to ratify or accede to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization at the earliest opportunity;**

(f) **Urge parties to the Convention that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to do so as soon as possible;**

(g) **Urge Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to ratify or accede to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress in order to ensure its early entry into force;**

(h) **Stress the importance of integrating biodiversity into the post-2015 development agenda and, in this context, note the relevance of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.**

Annex

Progress in the implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

A summary of progress towards the achievement of each of the 20 targets is provided below:

Target 1. There is evidence of an increase in awareness and understanding of biodiversity, with countries reporting on media campaigns, incorporation into school curriculums and other outreach activities. Limited information is available on the awareness of individuals regarding measures that they can take to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity.

Target 2. Important progress has been achieved in incorporating biodiversity values into planning processes and strategies to reduce poverty and integrating natural capital into national accounts. Wide variations among countries remain, but international initiatives, including the United Nations-led experimental ecosystem accounting initiative, are helping to reduce these differences.

Target 3. Governments continue to provide subsidies that are harmful to biodiversity, especially relating to fisheries. Agricultural subsidies are increasingly shifting towards positive incentives for conserving biodiversity. Greater attention and effort related to the elimination, phasing out or reform of harmful incentives will be required to achieve this target.

Target 4. While natural resources are being used much more efficiently to produce goods and services, this advance is overwhelmed by the greatly increased total levels of consumption and it is unlikely that ecosystems can be kept within safe ecological limits given current patterns of consumption.

Target 5. Loss of forest habitats in some regions has been significantly slowed. However, deforestation in many tropical areas of the world is still increasing, and habitats of all types, including grasslands, wetlands and river systems, continue to be fragmented and degraded.

Target 6. There has been some progress in rebuilding fisheries and an increasing number of fisheries are being certified as sustainable. However, overfishing continues to be a major problem and inappropriate fishing practices are causing damage to habitats and non-target species.

Target 7. Increased certified forestry, especially in boreal and temperate zones, and increased adoption of good agricultural practices signify more sustainable production. Nevertheless, unsustainable practices in agriculture, aquaculture and forestry continue to cause substantial environmental degradation and biodiversity loss.

Target 8. Nutrient pollution has stabilized in parts of Europe and North America but is projected to increase in other regions and remains a significant threat to aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity. Other forms of pollution such as from chemicals, pesticides and plastics are increasing.

Target 9. Governments are increasingly taking steps to control and eradicate invasive alien species. However, the overall rate of invasions, with great economic

and ecological costs, shows no sign of slowing. Preventive measures have been taken in a limited number of countries.

Target 10. Some large coral areas are being incorporated into marine-protected areas. However, the multiple pressures on coral reefs, both land-based and owing to marine activities, continue to increase and need to be urgently addressed in order to make progress towards this target.

Target 11. Taking current commitments into account, the target of protecting 17 per cent of terrestrial areas by 2020 is likely to be met globally, although protected area networks remain unrepresentative and many critical sites for biodiversity are poorly conserved. The 10 per cent target for protected areas is also on course to be met in coastal areas, but open ocean and deep sea areas are not covered nearly as well. Inadequate management of protected areas remains widespread.

Target 12. Despite individual success stories, the average risk of extinction for birds, mammals and amphibians shows no sign of decreasing.

Target 13. Genetic diversity of domesticated livestock is eroding, with more than one fifth of breeds at risk of extinction, and the wild relatives of domesticated crop species are increasingly threatened by habitat fragmentation and climate change. Significant progress continues to be made in ex situ conservation of species and varieties.

Target 14. Habitats important for ecosystem services, for example, wetlands and forests, continue to be lost and degraded, with implications for vulnerable groups in particular.

Target 15. Restoration is under way for some depleted or degraded ecosystems, especially wetlands and forests, sometimes on a very ambitious scale. Many countries, organizations and companies have pledged to restore large areas.

Target 16. The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization enters into force on 12 October 2014, opening up new opportunities for benefits from biodiversity and ecosystem services to be more widely and fairly shared.

Target 17. Updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans are expected to be in place for most parties by 2015, helping to translate the aims of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 into national actions.

Target 18. Traditional knowledge continues to decline, as indicated by the loss of linguistic diversity and large-scale displacement of indigenous and local communities to urban areas, although this trend has been reversed in some places as a result of growing interest in traditional cultures and the involvement of local communities in the management of protected areas.

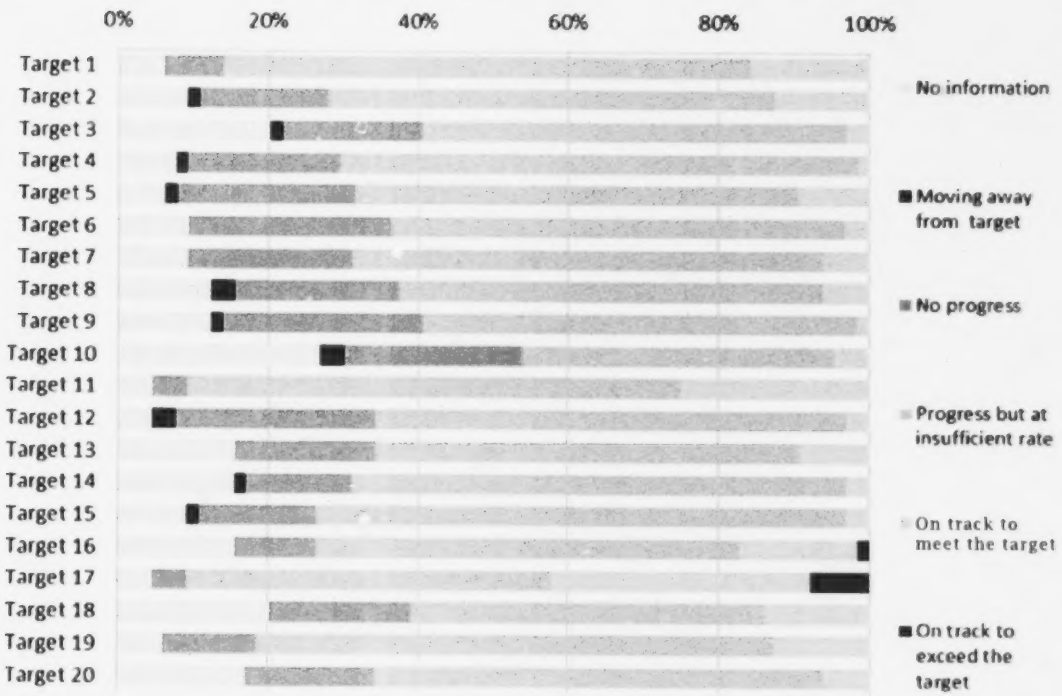
Target 19. Data and information on biodiversity are being shared much more widely through initiatives promoting and facilitating free and open access to digitized records from natural history collections and observations, including through citizen science networks; however, much data and information remain inaccessible and capacity is lacking to mobilize them in many countries.

Target 20. While there is some evidence of progress in mobilizing financial resources domestically and through international transfers, as well as through

innovative mechanisms, progress is currently insufficient to achieve the substantial increase needed.

The figure below represents an assessment of progress made towards the attainment of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets based on the information contained in 64 fifth national reports.[a] Almost 60 per cent of the reports explicitly assessed national progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. In those cases, the country's assessment was applied to a common five-point scale. In the other cases, the assessment was inferred from the information contained in the report. A number of the reports did not contain information that allowed for an assessment of progress; those cases are represented in the figure as "No information".

Assessment of progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets based on information in the fifth national reports



[a] The assessment draws on information in the reports of the following: Albania, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Denmark, Dominica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Estonia, Ethiopia, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Niue, Pakistan, Palau, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tonga, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United Republic of Tanzania. All are available from http://www.cbd.int/nr5/default.shtml.